

# Planning and Development

## KEEPING POULTRY AND PIGEONS

### Overview

Poultry provide a source of food and enjoyment for many people. They are a common feature in backyards, which are traditionally large enough to support a well maintained enclosure without causing undue offence to neighbours.

There are many good reasons for keeping a small number of chickens in the backyard. The keeping of chickens can assist households to live more sustainably by recycling kitchen scraps into fertilisers and having the added bonus of fresh eggs.

### Do I Need Approval to Keep Poultry?

Development approval is not required for keeping of poultry and pigeons for domestic purposes only (eg for the enjoyment and needs of the occupants of the land).

If the keeping of poultry and pigeons in an **intensive manner**, for example, a broiler shed, chicken hatchery, poultry battery or other like circumstances, not solely for the domestic needs or enjoyment of occupants of the land, Development approval will be required. Further information is available in the Copper Coast Council Development Plan - Intensive Animal Keeping available at <http://www.coppercoast.sa.gov.au/>

### Guidelines for Keeping Poultry

There is potential for poultry keeping to cause offence or annoyance in residential areas. Problems of this nature which are commonly encountered with poorly constructed and maintained enclosures include:

- Excessive odour
- Noise, especially from roosters and turkeys
- Fly breeding and attraction
- Rat or mouse attraction

If maintained correctly, poultry and pigeon enclosures can provide enjoyment for the owner without impacting negatively on neighbours.

To ensure that the keeping of poultry and pigeons is not creating a nuisance and compliance; poultry and pigeon keepers are obliged to implement best practices when designing and maintaining enclosures.

In an effort to promote the responsible keeping of poultry, the following should be undertaken:

- All receptacles for the storage of any food for the feeding of such poultry are to be vermin-proof, clean, sanitary and in good order
- No such food should be outside of the receptacles unless for the purposes of immediate consumption
- Drinking water to be changed frequently
- Ensure that all poultry faeces, feathers, refuse and dropped or scattered feed on the premises are removed and disposed regularly
- Spray enclosure as often as necessary to control fleas, lice, mites and other pests
- The area is to be free of rats and mice
- Chickens are allowed to wander your property only and need to be put away at night. They need to be kept within your boundaries.
- Ensure that noise from the birds does not cause a nuisance to any neighbouring property.

### Roosters

Roosters are NOT permitted to be kept in a residential area.

A rooster is not required for a hen to lay eggs. Keeping a rooster within your chicken enclosure can protect your chickens from harmful predators, however it can also create nuisance noise for neighbouring properties.

When considering purchasing a rooster, it is important to assess:

- The reasons why you want a rooster
- The location of the housing in relation to neighbouring properties and
- How you are going to keep the noise from the rooster to a minimum.

### Enclosures, Structures and Housing

Development approval for enclosures will be required for the shed/buildings being used for nesting (not the fenced area) if it is 15 square metres or larger.

Structures should be sited and constructed in accordance with the provisions of the Development Plan.

Further information can be found on the website:

- Copper Coast Council Development Plan available at <http://www.coppercoast.sa.gov.au/>
- Webpage - [Outbuildings](#).
- Fact Sheet – Outbuildings

### Concerns and Complaints

Council will investigate any formal complaint in relation to poultry which is causing:-

- nuisance noise (particularly relevant to roosters)
- excessive odour
- attracting excessive rats, mice or insects

Nuisance noise complaints can be quite complex to resolve. Council requires the assistance of the complainant in order to undertake this process.

The first step is to contact Council and complete a formal complaint form. Council will investigate the complaint and take the appropriate actions.

Council may request clean-up work on the property, change of living conditions for the birds or require a reasonable reduction in the amount of poultry and pigeons on the property.

Failure from the mediation process can result in expiations or an order being placed on the owner of the poultry and pigeons.

### Other Useful Links

- [https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/plants-and-animals/animal-welfare/Codes\\_of\\_practice/animal-welfare-codes-of-practice](https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/plants-and-animals/animal-welfare/Codes_of_practice/animal-welfare-codes-of-practice)
- <https://www.rspcaqld.org.au/blog/pet-care/how-to-care-for-chickens>